Harassment ot a scientist in the Botanical Survey of India

3552. SHRI SHARAD YADAV;

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH;

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a scientist at the Central Botanical Laboratory working on the medicinal plants has, in a memorandum to the Prime Minister, made certain observations about the working of the Botanical Survey of India and has alleged harassment meted out to him, besides denying him basic material required fo'r his research work;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any conducted by Government and what remedial measures were taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI); (a) to (c) A Scientist working on plant physiology in the Central Botanical Laboratory, Howrah, sent a representation directly to the Prime Minister stating mainly that:

—he is under-worked for the last many years;

—he is being harassed; and

—he is not being provided basic facilities.

2. The matte'r was looked into by the Ministry and the allegations were found to be without any basis. The enquiry showed that he is a Scientist with a poor service record, given to absenting himself frequently without permission and he has been indulging in activities calling for atcion under the conduct rules.

Demand for the Supply of Rough Diamonds to Small Establishments

3553. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that at the last one or two export awards distribution functions of Gem anw Jewellery Export Promotion Council, a demand was made that Hindustan Diamond Company should be stopped from supplying rough diamonds to those big firms which had access to overseas sources of supply and that HDC should be directed to supply rough diamonds only to small establishments for whom it was specifically established;

(to) whether it is also a fact that unllike the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation which is allowing about 90 days' credit to buyers of rough diamonds from it, the Hindustan Diamond Company is denying any credit facility to its buyers at the instance of the South African Diamond Trading Company and its subsidiaries; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that some parties going to Hindustan Diamond Company to buy certain varieties of rough are being told that such varieties are not in stock; but subsequently these varieties are offered to other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) A plea published in an article on the occasion of the exports awards distribution function of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council was made that the Hindustan Diamond Company Limited (HDCL) should supply rough diamonds exclusively to small diamond establishments which have no direct access to purchase of rough diamonds.